Cranberry Timber Supply Area
Timber Supply Review

Summary of Public Input

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This is a summary of the public input that has been received on the Timber Supply Review in the Cranberry Timber Supply Area. This summary does not assess the feasibility or validity of the input or whether it relates to the clearly defined mandate of the chief forester in the allowable annual cut determination.

106-04907/

Cranberry Timber Supply Area

Background

As part of the review of timber supply in the Cranberry Timber Supply Area, the British Columbia Forest Service distributed an *Information Report, Timber Supply Area Analysis Report* and a *Public Discussion Paper*. The public was encouraged to review and comment on the accuracy of the information in these documents and to provide additional information. This report summarizes the input received during the two review periods. This information was provided to the chief forester for his consideration when he reviewed the allowable annual cut for the Cranberry Timber Supply Area.

The first section of this summary outlines the public review process implemented by the Forest Service, and describes the types of public input received. The second section summarizes the public input in sufficient detail to indicate the range of input received. The original submissions (with personal identifiers removed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*) can be reviewed at the Kispiox Forest District office.

Public Review Process and Response

Kispiox District staff actively solicited public input on the Timber Supply Review in the Cranberry Timber Supply Area through the following actions:

- direct mail-out of the Cranberry Timber Supply Area Information Report, the Timber Supply Review backgrounder, the Cranberry timber supply analysis report and the discussion paper to major licensees, House Chiefs, local government and other government agencies. Both the *Information Report* and the *Public Discussion Paper* included response forms which readers were encouraged to complete and return to the district manager.
- approximately 200 letters were sent to other interested parties advising of the public input opportunity and the availability of timber supply analysis documents, and offering meetings with Forest Service staff.
- two information sessions were held with First Nations representatives (see Table 1).
- local newspapers and the community cable channel were successfully encouraged to provide coverage.

As Table 1 shows, eight people attended the two information sessions. The Kispiox Forest District also received two completed response forms and one submission (see Appendix 1).

Activity (No. of participants)	**Date**
Information sessions	
Gitanyow Huwilp Society (5)	Nov. 20, 1997
Nisga'a First Nation (3)	Jan. 16, 1998

Table 1: Participation in public information activities

Public Input

In this section, public input on the information presented in the three Timber Supply Review documents for the Cranberry Timber Supply Area is summarized under the following headings:

- Information Report
- Timber Supply Area Analysis Report
- Public Discussion Paper

Information Report

The individual respondent comments on the importance of the mushroom-picking industry in the Cranberry Timber Supply Area to the people that undertake mushroom harvesting, as well as the businesses that supply harvesters with services. The respondent noted that mushroom picking provides more value and

employment in older hemlock forests than wood fibre harvesting.

The respondent notes that the Forest Practices Code considers all values of the forest. The comments assert that important mushroom-picking areas are easily identified by timber type and age of the trees, and therefore, there is no reason why this valuable resource should not be considered in the planning processes for this area, and indeed all areas of the province.

Timber Supply Area Analysis Report

Timber Supply Analysis

The forest industry respondent points out a labelling error in Figure 20 of Section 5.7 regarding harvesting in prime pine mushroom stands. "Until 150 years from now" should read "over 150 years of age."

The Nisga'a Tribal Council says their submission is only a partial response to the Timber Supply Review in the Cranberry Timber Supply Area. A more complete technical review occurred during a meeting with the Chief Forester.

The Nisga'a submission notes that this timber supply area is in an ecological transition zone between coastal and interior forests. In their opinion, the unique ecosystems that result require special management considerations to maintain all values. Specifically, the submission comments on two topics:

- **the size** of the **timber harvesting land base.**

The Nisga'a submissions asks for clarification regarding the extent to which river bottom areas, important for wildlife habitat, were included in the timber harvesting land base. In particular, they question whether some large, previously logged areas along the river were included, or were excluded due to non-commercial cover or environmental sensitivity. The submission points out that these areas were high quality wildlife habitat, which has now been degraded, and asks when and how these areas will be restored.

- **wildlife habitat for old-growth dependent species.**

The Nisga'a submission notes that this timber supply area offers unique and important habitat for moose, grizzly bears, goshawks and fishers, and that all these species require a diversity of interior old-growth forest habitat. Their submission requests clarification and further discussion on three topics:

- the distinction between providing 10 to 15 percent of the timber supply area in "older stands," and the role of actual old-growth stands for wildlife.
- whether meeting old-growth minimums outside the timber harvesting land base fills the need for a diversity of ecosystem types.
- whether stands older than 100 or 140 years will supply old-growth attributes.

Socio-Economic Analysis

The Nisga'a submission notes that the Cranberry Timber Supply Area is within Nisga'a Traditional Territory, and that the Nisga'a have used the area for millennia for subsistence and cultural activities. These uses continue today, with the addition of participation in the mushroom harvesting industry. The Nisga'a submission says their interest and involvement in the timber supply area is ignored in the socio-economic analysis.

Public Discussion Paper

The forest industry respondent recommends that the Cranberry Timber Supply Area be amalgamated with an adjacent timber supply

area. He suggests that administrative efficiencies would result, as well as a reduction in timber supply impacts due to land base constraints (which are less constraining with a larger land base). The positive impact on provincial revenues is also noted.

The Nisga'a Tribal Council submission also addresses the question of tenure. It says the Nisga'a Nation, since 1993, has sought a way to participate in forest management in the Cranberry Timber Supply Area. The submission outlines an earlier proposal for cooperative management with the Ministry of Forests, Gitanyow and Gitwangak under a Tree Farm License. The Nisga'a believed this is the best tenure to achieve ecologically responsible management, including forest restoration and accommodation of diverse forest uses. Although that proposal was not accepted by the ministry, the Nisga'a submission expresses their desire to continue discussions on opportunities for them to participate in forest management in this area.

Appendix 1

Submissions received by the Kispiox Forest District

Industry
Bell Pole Co. Ltd.

First Nations
Nisga'a Tribal Council

Individuals
One submission